

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7959

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1596

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, MOPS, ET, US, SO
SUBJ: PMAC SEC GEN SPEECH BLASTS US, THREATENS RELATIONS BREAK

SUMMARY: SPEECH OF PMAC SEC GEN FIKRE-SELASSIE WOGDERESS
(SPEAKING IN ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY OF CHAIRMAN MENGISTU) AT
LARGE RALLY APR 6 TO COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY OF DEFEAT IN ETHI-
OPIA OF FASCIST ITALY IN 1941 CONCENTRATED UPON ALLEGED IM-
PERIALIST PLOTS AGAINST REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA, INTEMPERATE
ANTI-US PROPAGANDA, AND WARNINGS OF REPRISAL AGAINST SOMALIA
IN EVENT OF CONTINUED INFILTRATION OF GUERRILLAS INTO OGADEN.
HE TWICE SUGGESTED THAT RELATIONS WITH US, UK, AND FRG WERE
CLOSE TO BREAKING POINT, GAVE CONFLICTING SIGNALS ON ETHIOPIAN
INTENTIONS TOWARD ERITREA, AND GENERALLY WAS MORE MILITANT
THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED IN ABSENCE OF HIS LEADER. SPEECH
CONTAINED STRONGER LANGUAGE AGAINST US THAN ANY SINCE JUST
PRIOR TO APR '77 TERMINATION OF US-ETHIOPIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP
AND AT MINIMUM PUTS US BACK INTO HOSTILE RELATIONSHIP PREVAILING
PRIOR TO FEB '78 AARON VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. FIKRE-SELASSIE USED HISTORICAL OCCASION TO DRAW PARALLELS BE-
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TWEEN PAST COLONIAL DESIGNS AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND COORDINATED ANTI-
REVOLUTIONARY CAMPAIGN CURRENTLY BEING WAGED BY INTERNATIONAL IM-
PERIALISM, REACTIONARY RULING CLASSES IN SURROUNDING AREA,
EPRP, EDU, AND ERITREAN SEPARATISTS. ETHIOPIA HAD WON FIRST
CHAPTER OF ITS ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE BY "ANNI-
HILATING SIAD BARRE'S REACTIONARY FORCES AND REGAINING CONTROL
OF ALL ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY." HE REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT ETHIOPIA H

AS

NOT RETALIATED FOR DAMAGE INFLICTED BY SOMALIA. SINCE SIAD BARRE'S SOLDIERS WERE CONTINUING TO INFILTRATE INTO ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY, HE SAID, "ETHIOPIA WILL BE COMPELLED TO TAKE ANY AND ALL MEASURES WITH VIEW TO PURSUING TROOPS OF REACTIONARY SIAD BARRE..., TO WHERE THEY COME FROM AND DEMOLISH THEM. THE REACTIONARY MOGADISHO REGIME WILL BE HELD FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL CONSEQUENCES."

2. TURNING TO U.S., FIKRE-SELASSIE SAID USG IS LEADING ANTI-ETHIOPIAN CONSPIRACY AND OPENLY INTERFERING IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS "UNDER PRETEXT OF BEING CONCERNED BY PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS." ETHIOPIA HAS EVERY RIGHT TO SEEK AID OF ANY KIND FROM ANY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT, WHEREAS US HAS NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR COMMENT ON PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS. "WHO AUTHORIZED AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO BE WORLD'S POLICEMAN OR WATCH-DOG?" SINCE ETHIOPIA SAYS NOTHING ABOUT US MILITARY PRESENCE ELSEWHERE IN WORLD, USG SHOULD STOP ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, "IF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED."

3. USING FAMILIAR ARGUMENT THAT US AND WESTERN COUNTRIES KEPT SILENT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UNDER HAILE SELASSIE, BUT WERE NOW USING HUMAN RIGHTS ARGUMENTS TO STIFLE STRUGGLE OF BROAD MASSES TO BREAK CHAINS OF SERVITUDE AND SUBDUE IMPERIALIST STOOGES, FIKRE-SELASSIE CALLED ON US TO PUT ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. HE CITED TEN MILLION AS US UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE, "INHUMAN RACIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPRESSION" OF THIRTY MILLION BLACKS, MASSACRE (SIC) OF NATIONALITIES, MURDER, BANK ROBBERIES, AND BRUTAL TREATMENT OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS AS TYPICAL OF "INDESCRIBABLE ATROCITIES BEING COMMITTED BY IMPERIALISTS AGAINST THEIR OWN PEOPLE." UNRESERVED AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR OPPRESSIVE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME CONTRIBUTED TO SUFFERINGS OF BLACK PEOPLE THERE, AND MEMORIES OF WANTON US KILLING AND GENOCIDE IN VIET NAM, CAMBODIA, KOREA, AND ELSEWHERE WERE STILL FRESH.

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
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4. REQUOTING MENGISTU'S FEB 14 PRESS INTERVIEW STATEMENT THAT "IF, FROM AMONG WESTERN GOVERNMENTS THE US, BRITAIN AND FRG IN PARTICULAR CONTINUE THEIR POLICY OF DEVISING IN SECRET MEANS OF CAUSING BLOODSHED OF PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND WIDENING SCOPE OF DESTRUCTION AND ANNIHILATION--AND, BY GOING EVEN FARTHER, PERSIST IN DOING SO OPENLY AND WITH ADVENTUROUS ARROGANCE--AND UNLESS PEACE-LOVING BROAD MASSES OF THESE COUNTRIES PUT PRESSURE ON THEM AND DULY CHECK THEIR ACTIONS, MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THEM BECOMES TOTALLY MEANINGLESS," FIKRE-SELASSIE WARNED TO BURST OF APPLAUSE THAT "CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION IS APPROACHING FULFILLMENT OWING TO ACTIONS OF THESE GOVERNMENTS."

5. ON ERITREA, FIKRE-SELASSIE BLAMED REACTIONARY LEADERS OF SEPARATIST GROUPS FOR PREVENTING MARXIST-LENINIST SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF REGION, WHICH WOULD ALLOW BROAD ERITREAN MASSES TO SHARE FRUITS OF REVOLUTION. THOSE LEADERS DID NOT ACCEPT ETHIOPIAN GOVT (PMGSE) OFFERS AND EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE AND INSTEAD INTENSIFIED FRATRICIDAL WAR. LEAVING BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY OPTIONS OPEN, HE SAID ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION ARE NOT AT AN END, BUT IN SAME BREATH WENT ON TO SAY THAT "REGULAR AND MILITIA FORCES MUST MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO LIBERATE OPPRESSED ERITREAN MASSES. BY SAME TOKEN, THESE MASSES WOULD NOT BECOME "PUPPET INSTRUMENT" FOR FULFILLING DESIRES OF FOREIGN ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY POWERS.

6. FIKRE-SELASSIE SAID ETHIOPIA CANNOT RELAX, SO LONG AS "DIPLOMATS" AND OTHER MESSENGERS FROM REACTIONARY QUARTERS RUND FROM CITY-TO-CITY TO MOUNT AN INVASION ON ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO ASST. SECY. MOOSE VISIT TO SOMALIA, HE CLAIMED SECRET AGREEMENTS BEING REACHED, AND ALLEGED SCHEME TO INFILTRATE SOMALI SOLDIERS INTO DJIBOUTI TO BRING DOWN INDEPENDENT GOVT THERE. ETHIOPIA'S STRUGGLE ACCORDINGLY WOULD NOT BE OVER UNTIL ERITREAN

COMPATRIOTS WERE LIBERATED FROM GRIP OF REACTIONARIES, AND
REACTIONARY GROUPS ALL OVER COUNTRY HAVE BEEN TOTALLY OBLITERATED.
REMAINDER OF SPEECH ADDRESSED REHABILITATION TASK IN OGADEN AND
NEED TO CREATE NATIONAL MARXIST VANGUARD POLITICAL PARTY.

7. IN AN INTERESTING ASIDE, FIKRE-SELASSIE COMPARED DEFECTION OF
ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (ME'I SONE) LEADERS LAST AUG AT
HEIGHT OF SOMALI INVASION WITH EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE'S "ABAN-
DONMENT OF BROAD MASSES" IN 1936. COMING AFTER MONTHS OF SILENCE ON
SUBJECT, IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT REFERENCE MAY IMPLY NEW
PMGSE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE ME'I SONE ELEMENTS, MANY OF WHOM STILL
OCCUPY IMPORTANT GOVT AND POLITICAL POSITIONS.
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